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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 MC-02

OMB-01 EUR-12 /067 W
---------- 049747
R 080500Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8744
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 2731

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, YE
SUBJECT: YAR INVESTIGATION OF PLOT WIDENS

REF: SANA 2622

1. INVESTIGATION OF ARRESTED "COMMUNISTS" DESCRIBED IN REFTEL CONTINUES, WITH INFORMED YEMENI OFFICIALS CLAIMING THAT GROUP IS NOW OVERLAPPING COALITION OF IRAQI BAATHIS, COMMUNISTS AND LEFTIST GROUP WITH TIES TO PDRY.

2. ACCORDING AHMED ABD SAID, PLOTTING GROUP NOT ONLY INTENDED ASSASSINATE HAMDI AND OTHER MEMBERS OF COMMAND COUNCIL, BUT IT HAD $50,000 IN COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY WHICH CAME FROM SOURCE IN PDRY. ALSO ARRESTEES HAVE ADMITTED TIES TO NASR SAID, FAR LEFTIST FORMER ARMY OFFICER WHO FLED YEMEN AFTER AGUSUT 1968 MUTINY OF ABDAL WAHAB ABDAL RAQIB AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, PLAYED SUCH A PROMINENT PART IN EFFORTS TO SUBVERT SOUTHERN YAR. IN 1973 THIS CAMPAIGN HAD ESCALATED TO POINT WHERE WAR BETWEEN PDRY AND YAR WAS NEAR THING. CAMPAIGN HAS NOW, BY CONTRAST, DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY.

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3. ANOTHER FORMER YAR OFFICER, WHO IN CONTACT WITH

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LOCAL ARRESTEES, WAS SULTAN UMAR, WHO IS REPORTEDLY
PRESENTLY IN IRAQ BUT PART OF PDRY BASED EFFORTS TO
SET UP NETWERK WITH YAR.

4. A THIRD CONTACT ESTABLISHED BY YAR SECURITY INTERROGATIONS
IS ANIS YAHYA WHO (AS OF AUGUST 6) HAS NOT COME BACK
FROM SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE WITH ABDAL FATTAH
ISMAIL.

5. SAID AND
OTHERSOURCES HAVE NOT DIVULGED NAMES
OF YAR ARRESTEES BUT SAY THAT IT INCLUDED NO ACTIVE
ARMY OFFICERS OR HIGH YARG OFFICIALS.

6. AHMED ABDO SAID IS GENUINELY PERPLEXED BY THESE
DEVELOPMENTS. HE ROT ASSURANCES FROM SALIM RUBAYYA ALI
THAT PDRY WAS READY FOR NEW SET OF RELATIONS WITH YAR--
TRADE, PAYMENTS MECHANISM, END OF SUBVERSION,
EXCHANGE OF SOME PERSONS, GOVERNMENT JOBS FOR SOME
FORMER EXILES. HE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED WITH SALIM
POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGE OF VISITS -- SALIM TO SANA,

HAMDI TO ADEN.

6. SAID SEES POSSIBILITY THAT DISAPPOINTED RADICAL
ELEMENTS IN PDRY, TIED TO ABDAL FATTAH, COULD BE
ACTING INDEPENDENTLY AND OBLIQUELY TO DEFLECT THE
CHANGES OF FOREIGN POLICY AND THE ALLEDGEDLY RELATIVELY MORE
MODERATE SALIM. SALIM TOLD SAID THAT HE WILL NOT
ACCEPT ANY CHANGES IN NATIONALIZATION OR ANY CHANGE IN
SECURITY PRACTICES OF COUNTRY, BUT HE HAD PRESUMABLY
CANCELLED FORMER FOREIGN POLICY OF COUNTRY, WHICH
AIMED AT RADICALIZATION OF ENTIRE PENINSULA. THIS
SHARPLY UNDERCUTS ROLE AND VALUE OF YAR BORN YEMENIS IN
PDRY. THEY COULDN'T TAKE ON SALIM FRONTALLY, BUT MIGHT BE WILLING
AND ABLE TO TRY HALT OR REVERSE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH YAR.

7. STILL, SAID WONDERS IF SALIM COMPLETELY UNKNOWING IN
MOST RECENT CASE OF PLOTTING AGAINST YAR. SALIM IS VICIOUS
AND EXPREINCED PLOTTER WHERE YAR CONCERNED.
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FURTHERMORE, SAID STILL DISCOUNTS REPORTS OF EXILE OF ABDAL TATTAH,
ALTHOUGH HE SAYS LATTER IS "OVERDUE" TO RETURN, AND GOES ON TO
EPEAT THAT HE SIMPLY KNOWS OF NO RPT NO GOOD EVIDENCE
THAT SPLIT BETWEEN SALIM AND ABDAL FATTAH IS AS DEEP AS
SOME EXILES AND SAUDIS HOPE.

8. SAID AND OTHER COMMENTATORS IN SANA ADMIT THAT

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ARRESTEES, WHO NOW INCLUDE ABOUT 25 IN TAIZ AS WELL AS
ORIGINAL 15 IN SANA, HAVE FORCED MAJOR SHIFT OF
HAMDI REGIME. PLOT AGAINST REGIME WAS MUCH LARGER
THAN SUSPECTED. APPOINTMENT OF RIGHTIST ABDALLAH BARAKAT TO
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, RECONCILIATION WITH MOUJAHID ABU
SHUWARIB, DUMPING OF SOME SOUTHERN AND LEFTIST
MINISTERS, ALL ATTEST TO DESIRE OF HAMDI TO SHIFT
TORIGHT AFTER BREAKING MAJOR LEFTIST EFFORT TO
UNSEAT HIM. IN ANY CASE, GHASHMI AND HAJRI MADE SECRET TRIP
LAST WEEK TO TAIZ TO EXPLAIN FINDINGS HERE TO
SAUDIS.

9. CONTINUING INVESTIGATION OF YAR ARRESTEES SHOULD
INCREASE STRAIN ON SOVIET-YAR RELATIONS. SAID SAYS
YAR HAS DISCOVERED NO LINK WITH SOVIETS YET, BUT ARE LOOKING
HARD. AT SAME TIME THERE ARE ARMS PROBLEMS. UK EMBASSY
SANA HAS STORY THAT SOVIETS HAD CONCELLED TRAINING OF 90
YAR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN IN USSR FOR SOME TIME.
BRITISH TCHINK REASON FOR ABRUPT RETURN OF THESE MEN IS YAR
REFUSAL TO TAKE DELIVERY OF MIG-21'S.
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